

REMARKS

Claim 19 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 6-8, 10, 13-15, and 18 are amended herein. As a result of the amendment, claims 1, 3-8 and 10-18 are pending.

Support for the amendments to the claims is discussed below in regard to the rejections.

The title of the invention is not descriptive. (Office action paragraph no. 1)

Applicant maintains the traversal of the objection to the title. The Examiner has still not explained what he considers to be wrong with the present title, nor has he proposed an alternative. Applicant submits that the present title is consistent with, and descriptive of, the pending claims.

Regarding election/restriction. (Office action paragraph no. 2)

Withdrawn claim 19 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 10 is objected to. (Office action paragraph no. 3)

The objection is overcome by the amendment to claim 10, amending it to depend from claim 8.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. (Office action paragraph no. 5)

The rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims.

At the top of page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner asks three questions regarding the terms “specific printer” and “actual printer”.

The term “actual printer” has been amended in the claims to --said single or plurality of printers--, thereby clarifying that “actual printer” referred to the previously recited “single or plurality of print requestee printers”.

The term “specific printer” has been amended in the claims to --a printer from said single or plurality of printers--, thereby clarifying that this term referred to one of the previously recited print requestee printers.

Applicant submits that the relationship between the terms “specific printer” and “abstract printer” and the “single or plurality of print requestee printers” is apparent in the specification.

The Examiner asks additional questions at the bottom of page 3, regarding the phrase: “said host abstractly defining a port of a printer driver serving as an output port to an actual printer”.

As noted above, Applicant has amended the terms “specific printer” and “actual printer” to clarify the recitation.

In addition, the term “abstractly defining” has been amended to --defining ... without setting information regarding actual destination of a print request.” The amendment is supported in the specification on page 13, line 25, to page 14, line 4, where it states: “without any need to set printer

information on the actual destination in the definitions of the port 30.” That is, the original term “abstractly defining” meant not specifying an address or the like of an actual printer.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, omitting essential steps, omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to gap between the elements. (Office action paragraph no. 6)

The rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims.

The Examiner raises three issues in the rejection:

1) The Examiner appears to find confusing the relationship of the “print request” to the step where the “host automatically selects a printer” in the last clause of claim 1. Applicant submits, however, that there is no omitted essential step in this recitation, since the occurrence of a print request and the host selecting a printer are directly linked. Applicant submits that the issue raised by the Examiner is related to the indefiniteness issue regarding the “specific printer”, etc. Applicant has amended the claims as discussed above to remove indefiniteness recited with the term “specific printer”. The term “automatically” has been deleted in the amendment.

2) The Examiner refers again to the relationship between the “specific printer” and the “actual printer”. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims replacing these terms and clarifying the recitation, as discussed above, clarify this relationship.

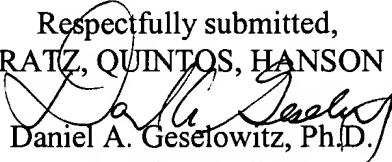
3) The Examiner refers to the definition of the specific printer. As discussed above, Applicant has amended the claims to replace this term and clarify the recitation.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, do not omit essential elements and are not indefinite.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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